IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (canceled);

5 (currently amended). An illuminated chest protection device ~~as described in claim 4, wherein~~ comprising:

a chest protector assembly including a front upper torso plate member, a back upper torso plate member, shoulder protection members being attached to said front upper torso plate, and connectors interconnecting said shoulder protection members to said back upper torso plate member, said chest protector assembly also including strap members interconnecting said front and back upper torso plate members, said front upper torso plate member being adapted to cover a user's upper torso from a user's waist up to a user's neck, and having contoured longitudinal side edges which bow inwardly of said front upper torso plate member, said back upper torso plate member being adapted to cover a user's upper torso from a user's waist up to a user's neck, and having contoured longitudinal side edges which bow inwardly of said back upper torso plate member, and also has openings being disposed in upper corners thereof, each of said shoulder ~~supported~~ protection members ~~is~~ being a longitudinally-curved plate and has an aperture being disposed therethrough near a back edge thereof;

light-emitting elements being disposed in said front and back upper torso plate members; and

a light control unit being attached to said chest protector assembly and being connected to said light-emitting elements.

6 (currently amended). The illuminated chest protection device as described in claim 5, wherein said connectors are flexible bands being ~~endlessly~~ disposed through said openings of said back upper torso plate member and said apertures of said shoulder ~~supported~~ protection members.

PAGE 5/7 * RCVD AT 7/25/2005 3:04:26 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/29 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID: * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34

7 (original). The illuminated chest protection device as described in claim 6, wherein each of said strap members has ends which are securely attached to respective said longitudinal side edges of said front and back upper torso plate members.

8 (original). The illuminated chest protection device as described in claim 7, wherein said light-emitting elements are phosphorous-coated wires which are disposed throughout and upon said front and back upper torso plate members and are arranged to display messages which blink on and off.

9 (original). The illuminated chest protection device as described in claim 7, wherein said light-emitting elements are electro-luminescent film which are disposed throughout and upon said front and back upper torso plate members and are arranged to display messages.

10 (original). The illuminated chest protection device as described in claim 7, wherein said light control unit includes a housing having a front wall and a battery compartment opening being disposed through said front wall; and also includes a dial being rotatably disposed upon said front wall of said housing; and further includes a battery being removably disposed in said housing; and also includes a variable switch member being connected to said battery and to said dial for controlling a rate at which said light-emitting members blink; and further includes an inverter being connected to said variable switch member and to said light-emitting elements for the energizing of said light-emitting elements; and also includes a cover being removably disposed over said battery compartment opening.

PAGE 6/7 * RCVD AT 7/25/2005 3:04:26 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/29 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID: * DURATION (mm-ss):01-34